

Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases

Report based on the honorary secretary's report to the 64th annual general meeting held on 25 October 1985

During the past year 41 new members have been elected. Membership to date is 553, 194 members being resident overseas. Subscriptions for 1985 had not been received from 55 out of 359 home members and 59 out of 194 overseas members by September 1985. Notification of changes of address had not always been forthcoming either, which would have resulted in a delay in members receiving communications from the society and *Genitourinary Medicine*. In the past year two honorary life members were elected, the late and much loved Dr R R Willcox, and Dr RS Morton. At present there are 18 honorary life members, 14 of which were resident in the United Kingdom.

Five ordinary meetings were held during the year. In the next session we hope to hold six.

The fourth genitourinary study weekend for junior doctors in the specialty was held at Beaumont Hall, Leicester University, on 13-14 April under the aegis of the Society. Over 80 doctors attended. The society is grateful to those who gave their time to come to speak and is once again very grateful to Bayer UK Ltd, which gave full financial support for the meeting. That company has promised full backing again for a similar meeting at Selwyn College, Cambridge University on 12 and 13 April 1986.

The spring meeting of the society was held in conjunction with the department of dermatology and venereology, University Hospital, at Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, on 16-19 May. Despite the unfortunate strike of air traffic control staff in Sweden, which meant going overland on lengthy coach journeys from Oslo or Copenhagen, the meeting was a splendid success. The scientific sessions had to be shortened and rearranged at very short notice, but nevertheless 30 papers, mostly of a very high standard, were presented, together with 17 papers shown as parallel posters. The society is most grateful to the local organiser, Dr Johan Wallin, and his organising committee, Drs Anders Hallen, Kerstin Ljunghall, and Anders Strand, who gave a great deal of their time and effort to

arrange not only the scientific sessions but also a most memorable series of happy social events in the beautiful city of Uppsala. The toast to the society at the conference dinner in the castle of Uppsala was given by Professor Lennart Juhlin. The society is grateful to the many pharmaceutical houses who generously donated funds, which helped the spring meeting in many ways.

Apart from the spring meeting of the society, which is to be held at Brighton on 16-19 May 1986, the society will be holding a session entitled "The best of genitourinary medicine" at the second world congress on sexually transmitted diseases to be held in Paris on 28 June 1986. The spring meeting in 1987 will be held in Antwerp, the dates are not yet decided. In 1988 the spring meeting will be at Cambridge in early summer rather than late spring, 30 June - 3 July.

An advanced course in sexually transmitted diseases was held at the Middlesex Hospital on 6-8 March. This was organised by the British Postgraduate Medical Federation in conjunction with the academic department of genitourinary medicine, and 50 people attended.

The Sexually Transmitted Disease Discussion Group with the Pathological Society held a meeting at the University of Birmingham on 17 April, where papers were read on laboratory aspects of sexually transmitted disease.

The Acquired Immune Deficiency Information Group under the leadership of Professor M W Adler meets regularly and is now two years old.

The society is represented on the following bodies: the committee on genitourinary medicine of the Royal College of Physicians, the Standing Advisory Committee, the Mono-Specialty Committee of Dermatology and Venereology of the European Economic Community, the British Federation Against the Venereal Diseases, the genitourinary medicine sub-committee of the Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services of the British Medical Association, and the editorial committee of *Genitourinary Medicine*.

The council of the society held five meetings at which all current items of interest to the specialty were fully discussed. Those of note were the setting up of the committee of genitourinary medicine of the Royal College of Physicians, monitoring of clinic practices, disquiet about proposals from the public health laboratory service for the future of diagnosis of chlamydial infections, stresses put on clinics (notably in London) because of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and the problems of delivering clinical care for those under 16 because of a recent legal case.

The council spent a great deal of time making arrangements for future meetings and taking note of members' requests. The results of voting for consideration of a venue for an ordinary meeting to be held outside London were 73 in favour, 94 against.

The *British Journal of Venereal Diseases* became *Genitourinary Medicine* in January 1985. Volume 60, which was published in 1984, consisted of 410 pages and contained 83 papers. We are grateful for the hard work of its editor, Dr A McMillan. He was assisted by two assistant editors, Drs BA Evans and G D Morrison, and the assistant with responsibility for abstracts, Dr RS Pattman.

I have been negotiating for 18 months now with the Royal Society of Medicine about a possible move there when a conference room capable of holding 200 people becomes available in the rebuilding scheme, I hope in the autumn of 1986. Negotiations are of necessity extremely protracted and delicate. Meanwhile, the kindness shown by Drs D Barlow and R N Thin in enabling the society to hold its meetings at St Thomas's Hospital is gratefully acknowledged.

The year once again has been most successful. The future for the society looks good. I should like to thank our president, Dr BA Evans, who is now about to retire from his post, for his wise counsel and continued support.

MA WAUGH
Honorary Secretary